

Residents of every State, who previously lived or worked at the base, have been impacted by the contamination.

Indeed, more than 180,000 current and former members of the armed services and employees at the base have signed up for the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Registry. By registering, individuals who lived or worked at the base before 1987 receive notifications about the contamination.

The Camp Lejeune registry includes residents from all 50 States. 1,121 Iowans are among them. It's estimated that more than 750,000 people may have been exposed to hazardous chemicals at the base.

The numbers don't fully reflect the impact of the disaster at the base. There are real people behind those numbers.

In March, as part of the Judiciary Committee's annual oversight hearing on the Freedom of Information Act, we heard the testimony of retired Marine Master Sergeant Jerry Ensminger. He was stationed at Camp Lejeune with his family and told us of the battle his daughter, Janey, fought with leukemia for two-and-a-half years, before she died at the age of nine. He also told us of the difficulties that he and others were having getting information from the Department of Defense.

The men and women of the armed services protect us every day. We should never take them or the sacrifices that they and their families make for granted.

We in Congress have an obligation to do everything that we can to support them in their mission.

That's why I'm a cosponsor of the Caring for Camp Lejeune Veterans Act, which was introduced by Senator BURR in 2011. That bill, a version of which passed by unanimous consent in the Senate yesterday, will help to provide medical treatment and care for service-members and their families, who lived at the camp and were injured by the chemical contamination.

Unfortunately, the Department of Defense has not been forthcoming with information about the contamination at Camp Lejeune.

That's troubling, especially coming from the administration that proclaims itself to be the "most transparent administration ever."

As we all recall, on his first full day in office, President Obama declared openness and transparency to be touchstones of his administration, and ordered agencies to make it easier for the public to get information about the government.

Specifically, he issued two memoranda written in grand language and purportedly designed to usher in a "new era of open government."

Based on my experience in trying to pry information out of the Executive Branch and based on investigations I've conducted, and inquiries by the media, I'm disappointed to report that President Obama's statements in

memos about transparency are not being put into practice.

There's a complete disconnect between the President's grand pronouncements about transparency and the actions of his political appointees.

The situation with the Camp Lejeune documents is just another example of that disconnect. The documents should have been produced long ago.

The recent letter that Chairman LEAHY and I sent from the Judiciary Committee had to be sent because the Defense Department refused to produce documents in response to a March letter signed by six senators and three members of the House of Representatives. Chairman LEAHY and I had also signed that March letter.

The March letter had to be sent because of complaints that Congressional offices had received about the Navy's refusal to disclose documents needed for scientific studies of the contamination at Camp Lejeune. It was also needed because of claims that the Navy is improperly citing exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act to withhold documents related to the contamination.

So, while I'm pleased that there was a bipartisan effort to obtain these documents, I'm disappointed by the stonewalling and by the hurdles that were put up by the administration.

Transparency and open government must be more than just pleasant sounding words found in memos. They are essential to the functioning of a democratic government.

Transparency is about basic good government and accountability—not party politics or ideology.

Throughout my career I have actively conducted oversight of the Executive Branch regardless of who controls the Congress or the White House.

I'll continue doing what I can to hold this administration's feet to the fire with Camp Lejeune and where ever else I find stonewalling and secrecy.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, twenty years ago, Brown University, located in my home State of Rhode Island, established the Leadership Alliance, a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business, and the public sector. Brown University and its partner institutions have continued to address this pressing national need.

The National Research Council recently published a report titled "Research Universities and the Future of America" that included a call for ten "breakthrough actions." Two of these actions involve reforming graduate education and creating pathways into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for

women and underrepresented minorities. That is what the Leadership Alliance has been striving to do since 1992.

Through an organized program of research, networking and mentorship at critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars from underrepresented and underserved populations for graduate training and professional apprenticeships. Leadership Alliance faculty mentors provide high quality, cutting-edge research experiences in all academic disciplines at the Nation's most competitive graduate training institutions and share insights into the nature of academic careers.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the Leadership Alliance has established a strong track record of success. More than half of the students who participated in the Summer Research Early Identification program enrolled in a graduate level program. Leadership Alliance institutions graduated approximately 25 percent of all doctorates in the biomedical sciences degrees to underrepresented minority students between 2004 and 2008, making it a leading consortium grantor of PhD degrees in the biomedical sciences in the United States.

Since founding the Leadership Alliance in 1992, Brown has mentored 386 scholars, of whom 35 percent have attained a graduate level degree. Nearly half of the students who participated in its Summer Research Early Identification program completed a graduate level degree. A majority of the Leadership Alliance doctoral degree recipients are in the STEM disciplines.

The Leadership Alliance is a model for identifying, training, and mentoring underrepresented minorities who are poised to expand and diversify the base of the 21st century workforce. I am pleased today to recognize the importance of such efforts and acknowledge the continued dedication of institutional leaders, faculty members, and administrators across the United States who provide training and mentoring of underrepresented students along the academic pathway. As such, I congratulate and commend the Leadership Alliance, including Brown University, for 20 years of contributing to creating a diverse and competitive research and scholarly workforce.

Mr. CASEY: Mr. President, today I would like to acknowledge the great work of the Leadership Alliance during its 20th anniversary. The Leadership Alliance is a consortium of 32 leading colleges and universities that aims to train, mentor and inspire a diverse group of students from a wide range of backgrounds to enter competitive graduate programs and research careers. This admirable goal of expanding access to high-quality programs is supported by the consortium's shared resources and vision.

I would especially like to acknowledge the program at the University of Pennsylvania, which is one of the

Leadership Alliance founding members and the only member in Pennsylvania. According to the university, the Leadership Alliance complements Penn's broader strategic vision of increasing diversity within its graduate student body and faculty. As it seeks to prepare leaders and role models for service in academia and the private and public sectors, the Leadership Alliance disseminates best practices in recruitment, mentoring and career development. With 20 years of experience in developing and sharing these essential techniques, the Leadership Alliance has helped to provide the Nation with a more diverse and globally competitive workforce. I wish to congratulate the Leadership Alliance on its 20th anniversary and thank its leaders and scholars for their significant contributions.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am proud to rise today to honor the Leadership Alliance, which was founded 20 years ago in 1992 at Rhode Island's Brown University. It has grown to become a consortium of 32 of our country's leading higher education research and minority serving institutions, working together to bring students from underrepresented groups into competitive graduate programs and professional research careers. Through training and mentorship, the Leadership Alliance opens doors for our best and brightest young people to become the innovators of tomorrow.

During its 20 years, the Leadership Alliance has mentored more than 2,600 undergraduates, including 43 Rhode Islanders. These students are offered the unique and exciting opportunity, through the Summer Research-Early Identification Program, to participate in a 9-week paid summer internship where they work side by side with faculty in the academic discipline of their choice at some of our leading research institutions. They then present their research to the annual Leadership Alliance National Symposium. This summer experience gives the students the opportunity to expand their intellectual horizons, as well as network with academics and their peers. The program has produced nearly 200 PhDs, the Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars, along with professionals in private research and academia.

It is vital for our country's continued competitiveness in the world that we seek to inspire our young people to innovate and experiment, to push the boundaries of our current knowledge. The Leadership Alliance has recognized that mentoring is key in order to ensure that students from all backgrounds feel that they have access to graduate education and know that they have peers in research. The innovative programs the Leadership Alliance has created over 20 years have not only allowed these students to increase their own opportunities academically and professionally, but allowed past students to become role models themselves.

I congratulate the Leadership Alliance, Brown University, and the other participating colleges and universities, as well as academics and students, past and present, who through 20 years have shown their commitment to American education, leadership, and innovation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. HAMILL

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Edward J. "Eddie" Hamill, who is retiring on July 31, 2012 after more than three decades of exemplary service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. On July 17, the Missouri Farm Service Agency, FSA, held a reception for Eddie recognizing his service. Today, I would like to stand to honor his contributions to agriculture and the people of Missouri.

Eddie is a lifelong Missourian who has served the people of Missouri through his work at the Farm Service Agency since 1979. In addition to his dedicated work at the Farm Service Agency, Eddie's passion for public service is evident in his willingness to serve beyond his normal workload. He is active in the Perry Lion's Club, Mark Twain Young Farmers, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Farmer's Union, and serves as a member of the Ralls County Health Department Board of Directors. On top of all this, Eddie operates a family farm with 1,200 acres of cropland and pasture for a cow-calf herd.

In July 2009, Eddie was appointed by President Obama to serve as the State Executive Director of FSA, responsible for overseeing the delivery of the income support, disaster assistance, conservation and farm loan programs. With more than 100,000 farms, Missouri agriculture employs nearly 250,000 people. Immensely productive and highly diverse, it is the backbone of Missouri's economy. The task of ensuring that Missouri's farmers and ranchers have the tools they need to provide for our families and communities is vital.

During his tenure as Missouri FSA Director, Eddie has worked tirelessly to ensure the agency is doing everything it can to properly serve our State. With nearly 100 offices in counties throughout the State, the local Farm Service Agency office is where Missouri farmers turn for assistance. A husband, father of four, and a farmer himself, Eddie believes in improving economic stability for Missouri farmers one family at a time. From the letters that have come in to my office from Missourians expressing the importance they place on their local Farm Service Agency office, the value of his approach and dedication is clear.

Perhaps nowhere has the value of Eddie's leadership been clearer than in response to the devastating natural disasters Missouri agriculture has faced. From the devastating flooding we experienced

along the Missouri River, to the catastrophe at Birds Point, to this year's crippling drought conditions, Eddie and the entire Missouri Farm Service Agency staff have answered every call to help.

I am happy today to pay tribute to Eddie Hamill. He stands out amongst public servants, and he has my thanks and surely that of all Missourians for his service to our State. I wish congratulations and good luck to him and his entire family. •

REMEMBERING HIRAM HISANORI KANO

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a historic figure in Nebraska who helped this country through troubling times in a battle against racism, hatred and fear and in pursuit of justice and equality.

Hiram Hisanori Kano was born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1889. When former Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan traveled to Japan, the Kanos, as part of the Imperial family, hosted his visit. Their visitor from the west sparked in young Kano an intense desire to travel to the United States and especially to Bryan's home state of Nebraska.

As the story is told by James E. Krotz during the Annual Council Eucharist at the Church of Our Savior in North Platte, NE, in 1916 Mr. Kano came to America, where his skills were put to good use in helping the many young Japanese who were immigrating to the United States to farm. He came to America and quickly earned a Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska. In the years that followed he served as organizer, translator, teacher and spokesman for Japanese immigrants living in Nebraska.

Just 1 year after his graduation from the University, Kano faced his first challenge when the Nebraska Constitutional Convention assembled in Lincoln in 1919. The purpose was to update the State constitution to reflect the monumental social, economic and political changes brought about by World War I. A number of bills were introduced that would have discriminated bitterly against Japanese immigrants. One would have prohibited aliens from owning land, inheriting farmland, or even leasing land for more than 1 year. Since the Japanese did not have the right to become naturalized citizens at that time, these laws would have excluded them entirely from farming, except as hired laborers.

Mr. Kano left his farm in rural Nebraska and hurried off to the State capital, where he testified before the Judiciary Committee. "In Nebraska," he told them, "there are about 700 Japanese, including Nisei [American citizens born to Japanese immigrant parents]. There are about 200 Japanese farms, mostly raising sugar beets along the North Platte River. Nearly all are